JAMES TYNION IV
UNIVERSAL MONSTERS
DANI
BRAD SIMPSON
THE INVISIBLE MAN
ISSUE TWO
DANI 2025.

SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT AND IMAGE COMICS PRESENT

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UNIVERSAL MONSTERS

THE INVISIBLE MAN

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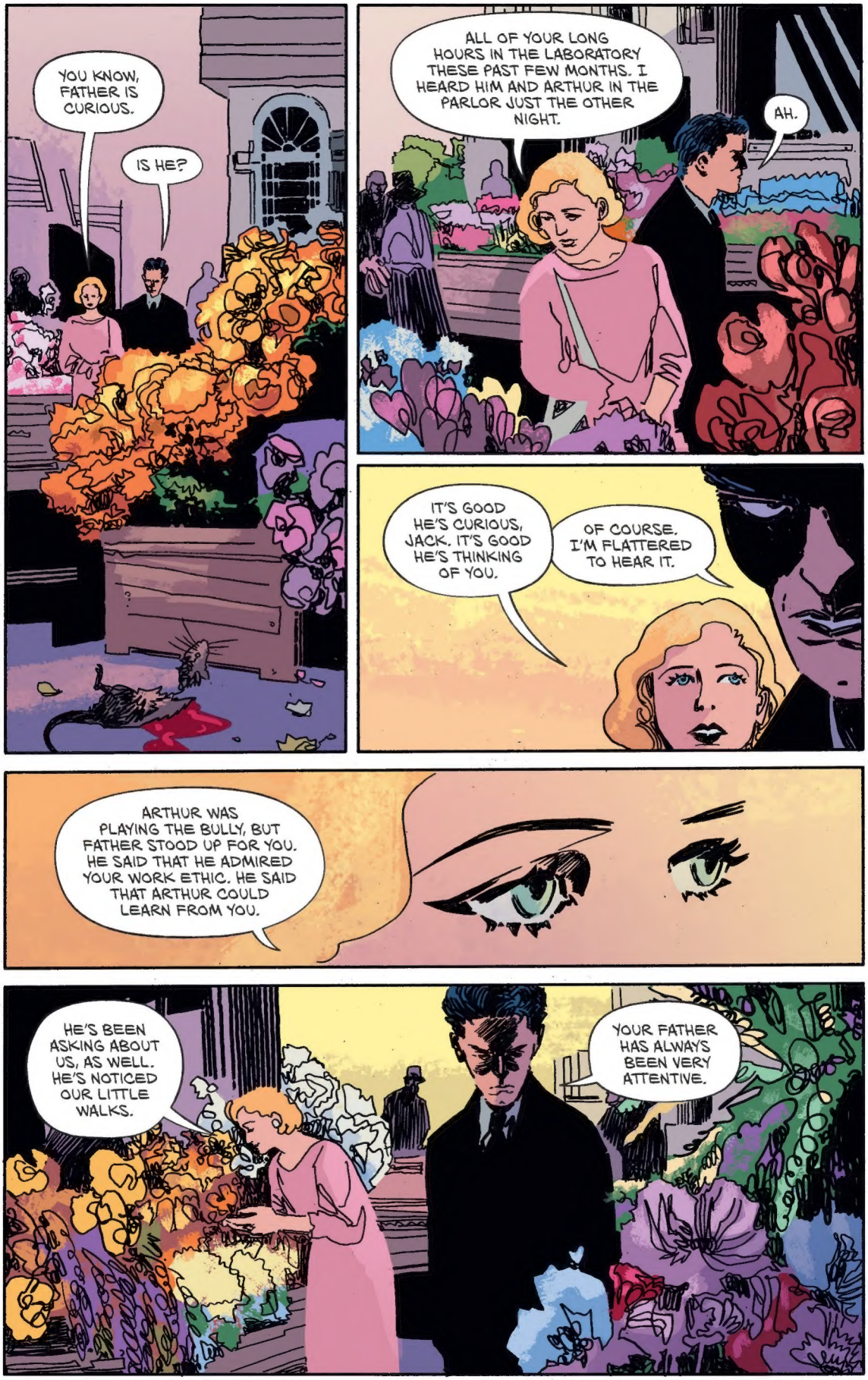
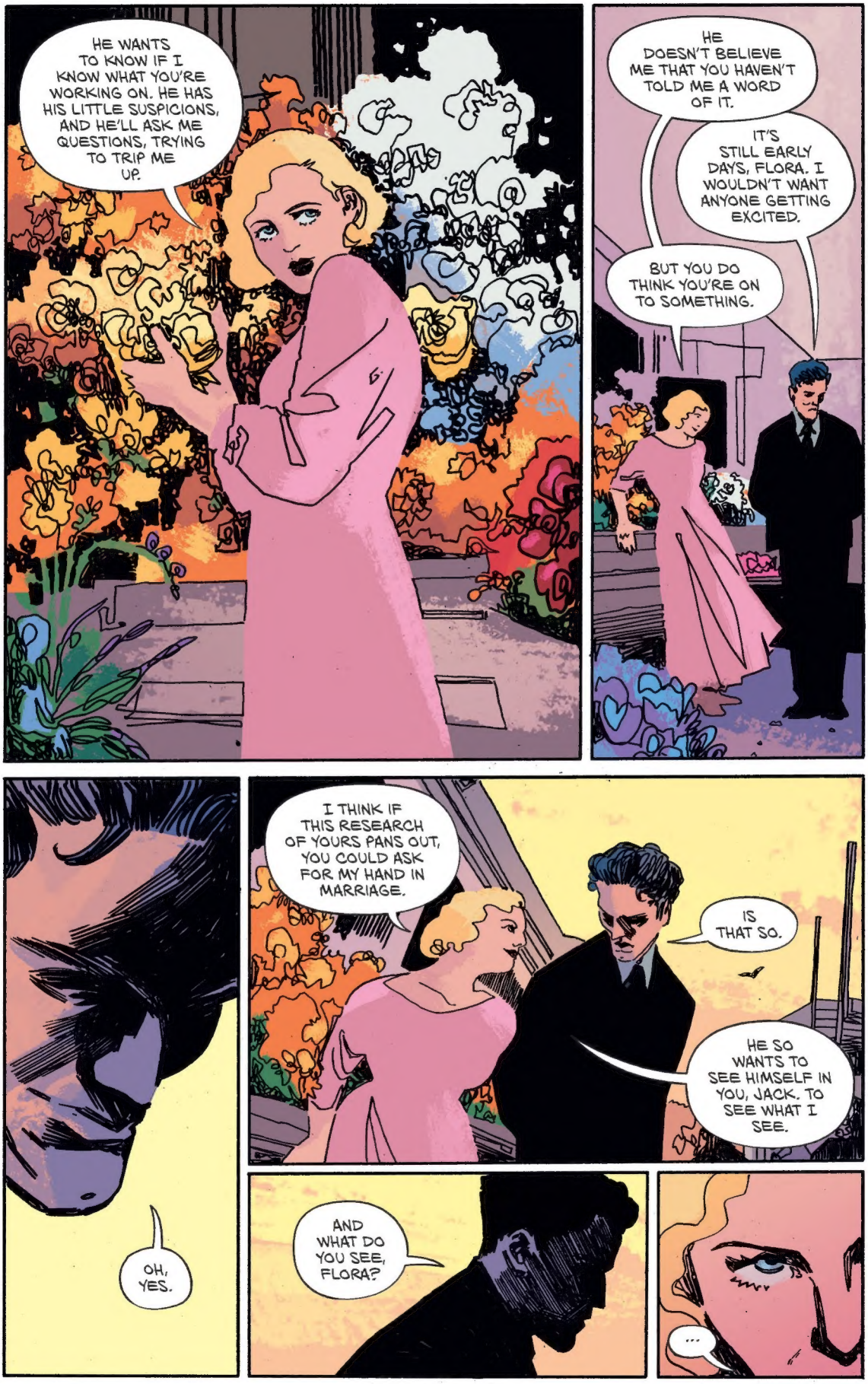
I've always felt the weight of a watchful gaze like a physical burden carried on my shoulders.
I tend to falter. My hands move unsteady.
My mind tries to see myself from without and within, imagining what others think of me, what they want of me.
And holding all those variables keeps me from achieving my aims with necessary clarity and precision.
To be seen is to be vulnerable. To be weak.


YOU KNOW, FATHER IS CURIOUS.
IS HE?
ALL OF YOUR LONG HOURS IN THE LABORATORY THESE PAST FEW MONTHS. I HEARD HIM AND ARTHUR IN THE PARLOR JUST THE OTHER NIGHT.
AH.
IT'S GOOD HE'S CURIOUS, JACK. IT'S GOOD HE'S THINKING OF YOU.
OF COURSE. I'M FLATTERED TO HEAR IT.
ARTHUR WAS PLAYING THE BULLY, BUT FATHER STOOD UP FOR YOU. HE SAID THAT HE ADMIRED YOUR WORK ETHIC. HE SAID THAT ARTHUR COULD LEARN FROM YOU.
HE'S BEEN ASKING ABOUT US, AS WELL. HE'S NOTICED OUR LITTLE WALKS.
YOUR FATHER HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY ATTENTIVE.


HE WANTS TO KNOW IF I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE WORKING ON. HE HAS HIS LITTLE SUSPICIONS, AND HE'LL ASK ME QUESTIONS, TRYING TO TRIP ME UP.
HE DOESN'T BELIEVE ME THAT YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME A WORD OF IT.
IT'S STILL EARLY DAYS, FLORA. I WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE GETTING EXCITED.
BUT YOU DO THINK YOU'RE ON TO SOMETHING.
OH, YES.
I THINK IF THIS RESEARCH OF YOURS PANS OUT, YOU COULD ASK FOR MY HAND IN MARRIAGE.
IS THAT SO.
HE SO WANTS TO SEE HIMSELF IN YOU, JACK. TO SEE WHAT I SEE.
AND WHAT DO YOU SEE, FLORA?
...

DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME, JACK. YOU KNOW I THINK THE WORLD OF YOU.
OF COURSE, DEAR.
YOU KNOW, I HEARD THE QUEEREST THING THE OTHER DAY DOWN AT THE MARKET.
THEY COULD HAVE SWORN THEY HEARD A CAT YOWLING IN THE STALLS, BUT COULDN'T FIND HIDE NOR HAIR OF IT.
AND THEN ONE GIRL SWORE SHE SAW A FISH WALKING ITSELF DOWN A BACK ALLEY.
CAN YOU IMAGINE?

HOW STRANGE, INDEED.
YOU'RE SPENDING THE NIGHT IN THE LABORATORY AGAIN TONIGHT?
I HAVE TO EARN YOUR FATHER'S GOODWILL, DON'T I?
YES. OF COURSE.
OH, JACK. I WISH YOU COULD KISS ME HERE ON THE SPOT. I WISH NOBODY COULD SEE US.
SOON, MY DEAR. SOON.

Universal Pictures

AND

Skybound

PRESENT...

THE INVISIBLE MAN

CHAPTER TWO

THINGS MEN SHOULD LEAVE ALONE

Larger mammals had proved themselves more difficult than the mice.

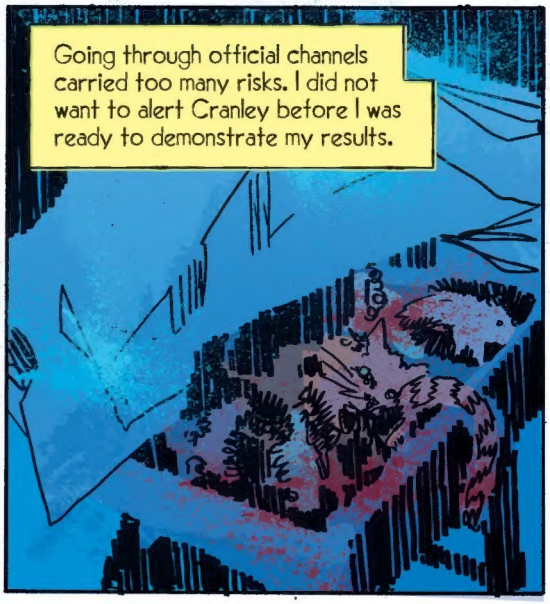
The Monocaine, incorrectly dosed, would drive the pitiful creatures into a feral, brutal insanity before inducing death.

Occasionally, the creatures would exhibit some partial invisibility before they passed.

These half-formed things, angry at my faulty hand. That they had but one small taste of the power I was trying to capture.

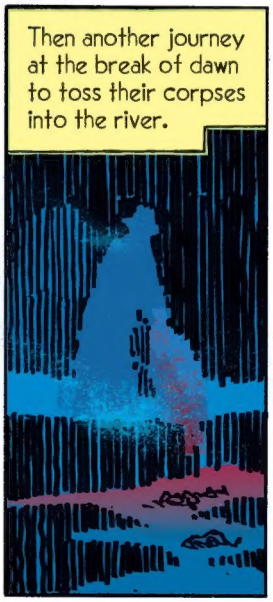
Before they passed from this world and into oblivion.

Sourcing the animals had been tedious, as well.


Going through official channels carried too many risks. I did not want to alert Cranley before I was ready to demonstrate my results.

So I had to take matters into my own hands.

Entire nights were spent drugging scraps of food, gathering the unconscious husks of cats and dogs and wheeling them back to the lab.


Then another journey at the break of dawn to toss their corpses into the river.

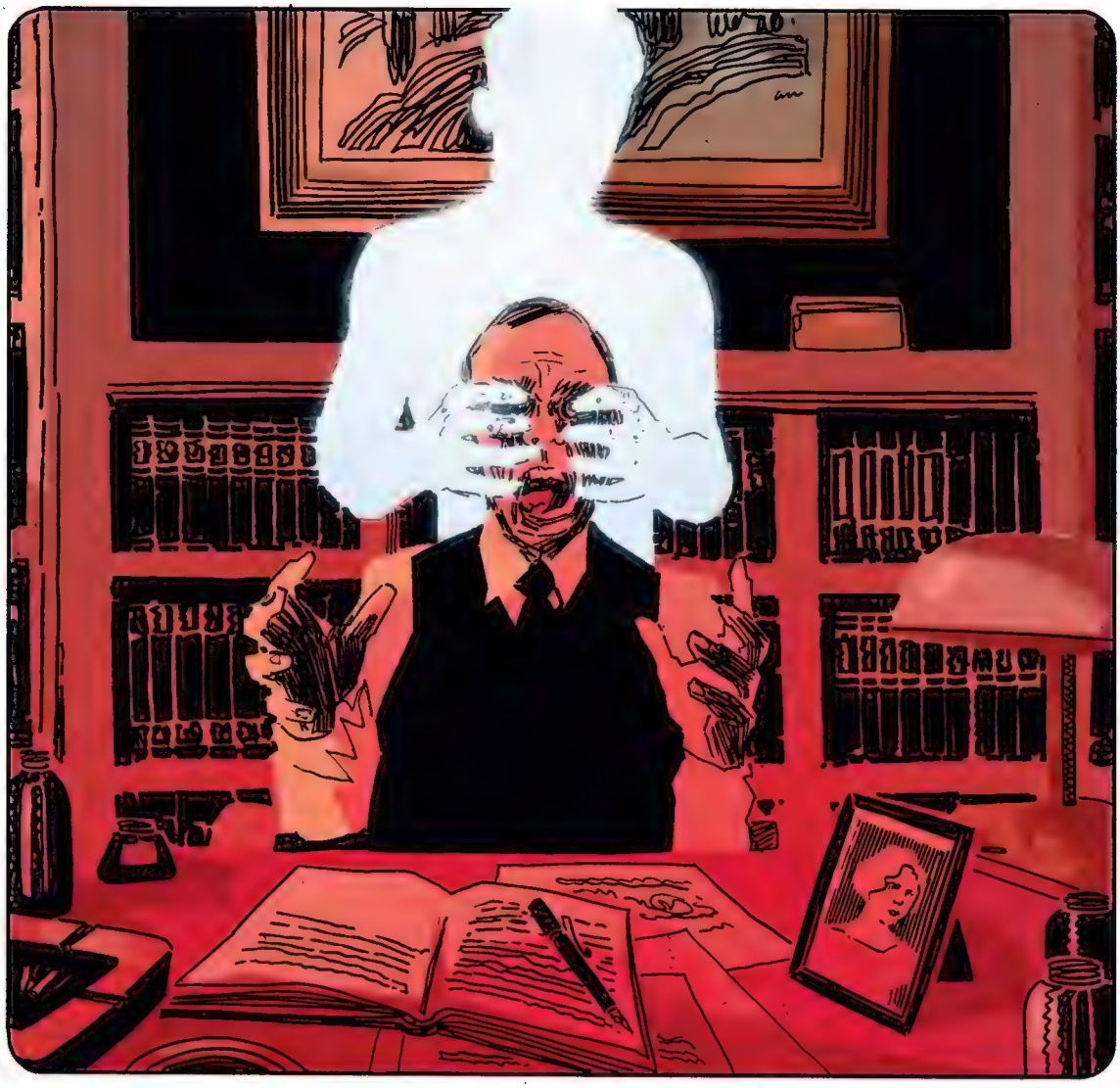
There had been one success.
A wretched one-eyed cat. He had been a creature of the alleyways for years, proudly bearing the scars of his felled enemies.
He sprung to life upon injection, scraping my arm and biting my hand, and managing to escape the laboratory and out into the street.
Then the rumors had started, of the spectral creature stalking the streets at night unseen.
It was too clever to capture again, I was certain of that, but I felt his invisible eyes on me each time I walked the night road.

Its mind sharpened by the Monocaine, it eyed me as the god that had given it this unholy power.
It hated me, and loved me, and made its presence known.
As if to taunt me each night that it knew I had failed again.
That it was the great invisible predator ruling over these streets. Watching me. Knowing I could not watch it.
Never to be replicated. Never to be bested.

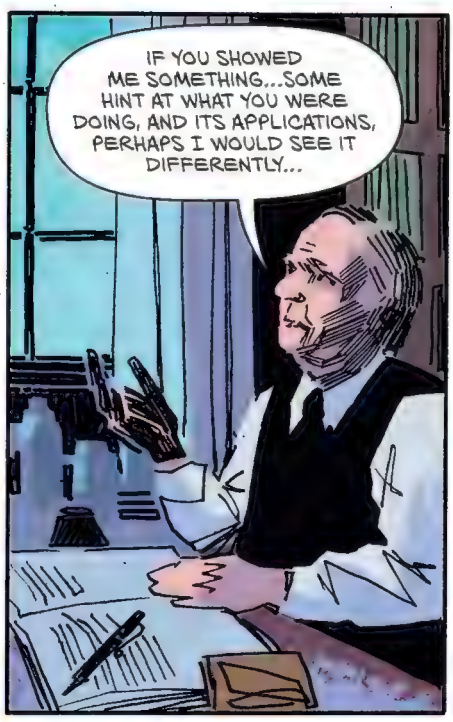
DELIVERY!
THIS ISN'T FOR ME.
WELL, I SURE AS HELL CAN'T TAKE THE DAMNED THING BACK WITH ME.
AH! GOOD. IT'S HERE.
WHAT'S HERE?
OUR NEW LAB PARTNER, GRIFFIN.
HIS NAME IS ROSCOE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH SECRETS, GRIFFIN. I'M A SCIENTIST MYSELF, AND I'VE MY OWN RIGHT TO EXPERIMENT.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO TO THIS CREATURE?
WELL, I CERTAINLY COULDN'T PROVE IF MY FORMULA WOULD WORK ON A MAN WITHOUT TESTING IT OUT ON A BEAST FIRST?
CRANLEY APPROVED THIS?
YOU SHOULD SEE IF HE'D GET YOU A LITTLE FRIEND OF YOUR OWN, GRIFFIN. PERHAPS THE DAMN THINGS WOULD FALL IN LOVE. HAH, COULD YOU IMAGINE?
THEN AGAIN, I WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE DEAR ROSCOE CARTED OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AFTER YOU GOT THROUGH WITH HIM.

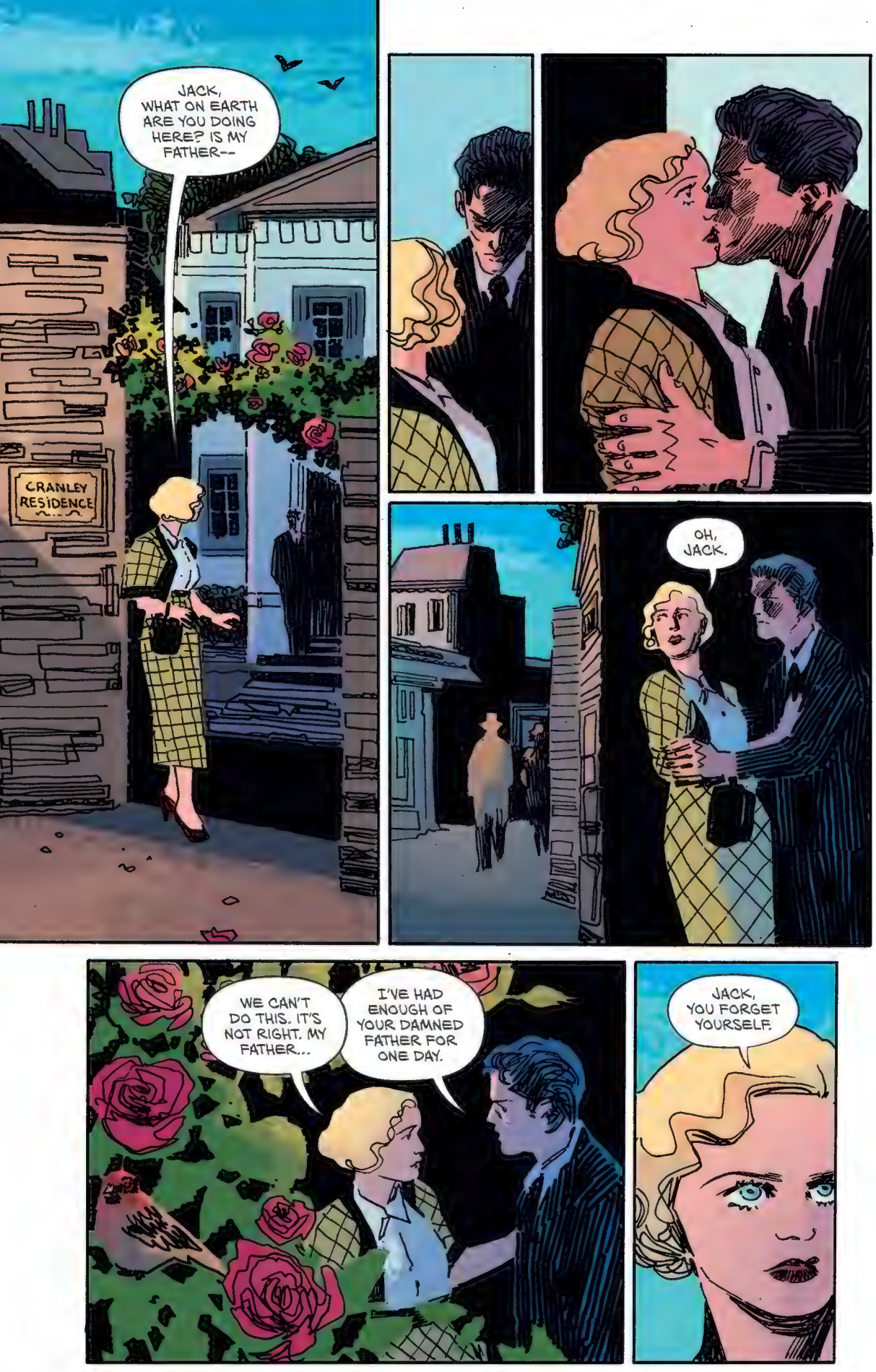
I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE TROUBLE IS, JACK.
I'VE GIVEN YOU A LOT OF LEEWAY THESE PAST FEW MONTHS.
MY EXPERIMENTS ARE IN A CRUCIAL PHASE...IF I COULD GET MY OWN QUARTERS TO FOCUS, I BELIEVE...
I LIKE THAT THE TWO OF YOU BOYS ARE BIG THINKERS, AND DREAMERS. I REALLY DO.
AND A LITTLE COMPETITION IS HEALTHY, BUT THESE ARE YOUR PET PROJECTS, NOT WHAT I PAY YOU TO DO. I'M HAPPY TO SUPPORT THE SIDE-PURSUITS, BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO SHARE YOUR WORKSPACE.
WITH A DAMNED MONKEY.
CAREFUL, JACK.
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO BE CROSS, BUT I DO HAVE LIMITS.

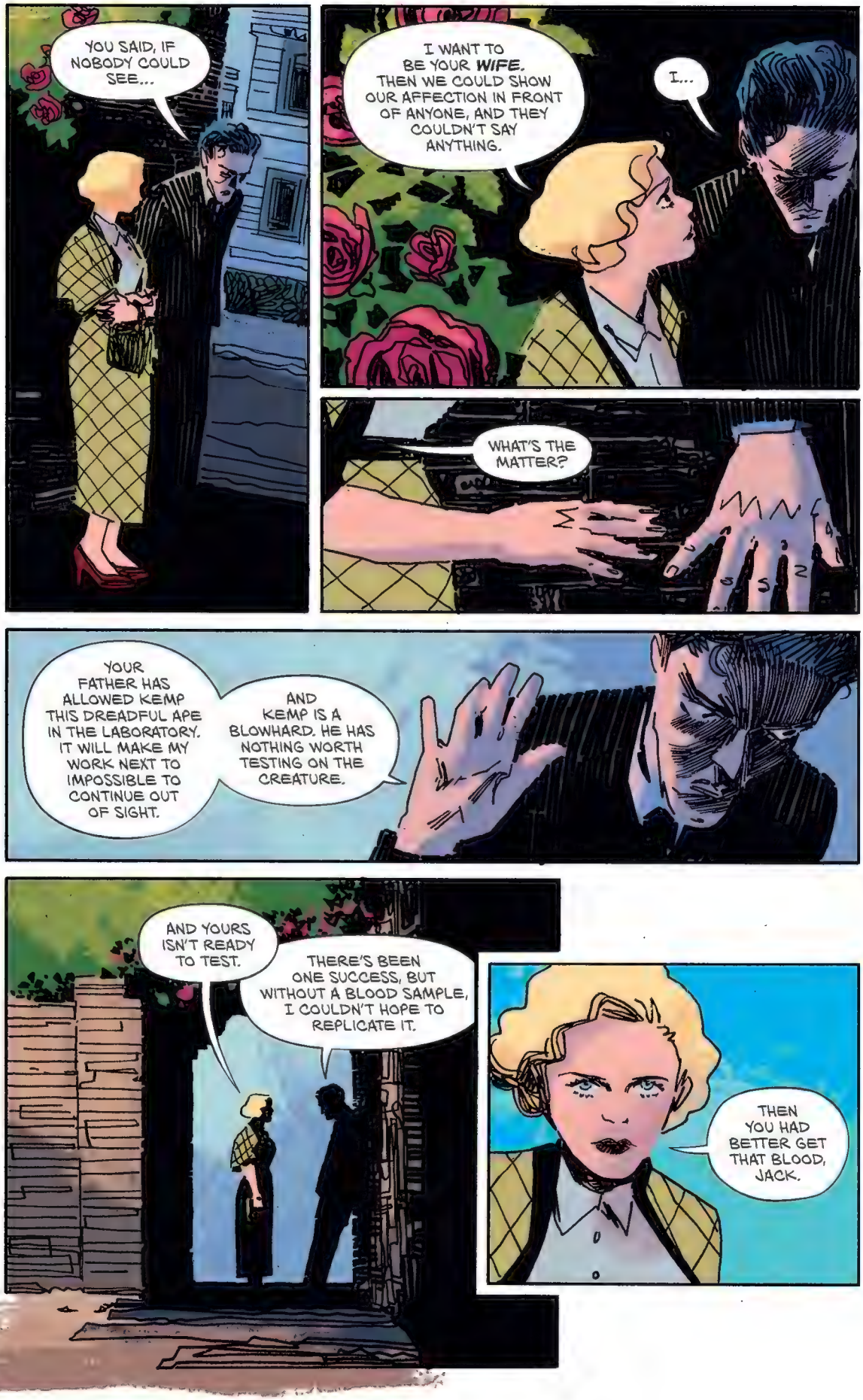


FORGIVE ME.


IF YOU SHOWED ME SOMETHING...SOME HINT AT WHAT YOU WERE DOING, AND ITS APPLICATIONS, PERHAPS I WOULD SEE IT DIFFERENTLY...

NOT YET, SIR.
I'M SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU.


JACK, WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING HERE? IS MY FATHER--
CRANLEY RESIDENCE
OH, JACK.
WE CAN'T DO THIS. IT'S NOT RIGHT. MY FATHER...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR DAMNED FATHER FOR ONE DAY.
JACK, YOU FORGET YOURSELF.


YOU SAID, IF NOBODY COULD SEE...
I WANT TO BE YOUR WIFE. THEN WE COULD SHOW OUR AFFECTION IN FRONT OF ANYONE, AND THEY COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
I...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOUR FATHER HAS ALLOWED KEMP THIS DREADFUL APE IN THE LABORATORY. IT WILL MAKE MY WORK NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE OUT OF SIGHT.
AND KEMP IS A BLOWHARD. HE HAS NOTHING WORTH TESTING ON THE CREATURE.
AND YOURS ISN'T READY TO TEST.
THERE'S BEEN ONE SUCCESS, BUT WITHOUT A BLOOD SAMPLE, I COULDN'T HOPE TO REPLICATE IT.
THEN YOU HAD BETTER GET THAT BLOOD, JACK.

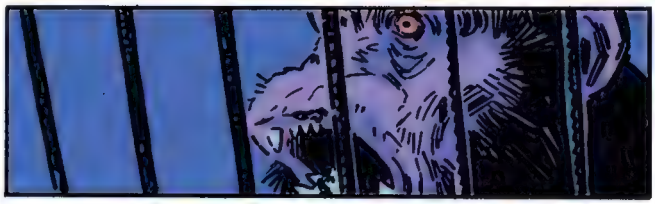
The piercing eyes of the ape taunted me for nights before I saw my course of action.
They would seek the comfort of my own eyes. Seek the understanding in them. To know who I was and if I were a threat to it.
First, I needed to sever that connection.
Make my intentions unknowable. Unseen.
The clarity I felt behind those tinted lenses was intoxicating.

The ape made its strange animal noises, trying to provoke some kind of response it could interpret.

But I stayed cold, and waited for my perfect predator to arrive.

I do not know how long it stayed at the window, studying the scene. Considering the action it must take.

I sensed it as I had always sensed it, but the tenor had changed.



In this mission, we were aligned.

We were the invisible masters of this world, and the prying barbarous eyes of lesser beings had provoked us.

The ape grew more and more agitated. Sensing danger, but not knowing where it would come from. Incapable of protecting itself against its unknowable opponent.

It cowered in the back of its cage, knowing itself lesser.

But that knowledge wouldn't suffice.

I was a scientist, after all.

I required evidence.

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE.
I AGREE.
A CAT, YOU SAY? A CAT DID THIS?
YES. THE APE CRUSHED ITS NECK, AND IT WAS GRUESOME SO I DISPOSED OF IT. BUT I THOUGHT IT BETTER TO LEAVE THIS CREATURE FOR YOU TO SEE.
I WAS ADMINISTERING A SMALL DOSE OF MY FORMULA TO THE CAT, WHEN THE APE RATTLED THE DOOR OF ITS CAGE FREE. I COULDN'T STOP IT.
BUT HOW DID THE DAMN THING GET OUT OF ITS CAGE? IT WAS LOCKED.
CLEARLY IT WAS NOT.
THIS IS A CHEMICAL LABORATORY, NOT A CIRCUS. I SHOULDN'T HAVE ALLOWED THIS AT ALL.
I'D ADVISE YOU TO REDIRECT YOUR THINKING. I WON'T HAVE ANY MORE ANIMALS IN HERE.

THIS IS SABOTAGE. GRIFFIN DID THIS DELIBERATELY TO--
I WON'T HEAR ANOTHER WORD ON THIS, KEMP. GET THIS FOUL THING OUT OF OUR SIGHT. AND CLEAN UP THIS MESS.
FINE. I'LL GET THE DAMNED WHEELBARROW.

I DON'T MEAN TO TAKE THE WIND OUT OF YOUR SAILS, MY BOY.

OH, I'M PERFECTLY COMFORTABLE WITH IT, DOCTOR CRANLEY.
I HAVE THE CAT'S BLOOD SAMPLES. I CAN WORK FROM THERE. THERE IS...QUITE A LOT MORE I CAN ACCOMPLISH NOW.

GOOD. GOOD.

NOW WHY ARE YOU WEARING THOSE TINTED LENSES? CAN YOU SEE IN HERE?

OH, I CAN SEE QUITE WELL. I SEE PRECISELY WHAT I NEED TO DO NEXT.

MONSTER MAIL

Got something to say? We want to hear from you! Email us at: **UniversalMonsters@skybound.com** and mark "OK TO PRINT!"

My fellow monsters!

Welcome back to MONSTER MAIL! Monster-in-Chief Alex Antone here, fresh from San Diego Comic Con where I met with so many talented comic book creators, some of whom will be contributing to this line very soon... but enough about them! We're here because you just read the second issue of THE INVISIBLE MAN. That Jack Griffin is a real piece of work, isn't he? That poor chimpanzee! Also, when I read James' script for this issue, I got chills the moment Griffin put on his iconic glasses for the first time...and then DaNi & Brad absolutely nailed the moment. Bravo to this team! A stunning second issue, and having just put the 3rd issue to bed, I have to say...you ain't seen nothin' yet!

Anyway, let's empty the mailbox from THE MUMMY, and next issue, we'll start to tackle your Invisible Man letters.

Hey there!

I'm writing today after just finishing issue three of The Mummy — more specifically, the Monster Mail section. I saw someone write in saying it was their fourth time ever doing so, and only when they have complaints. They weren't too fond of the book so far, which honestly baffled me!

Their letter actually inspired me to write in for the first time ever — not to complain, but to say thank you to Faith, Lee and the whole team.

The Mummy holds a special place in my heart as one of my all-time favorite Universal Monsters. When I was a kid, my parents gave my brother and me Christmas presents that hinted at a big surprise: a trip to Universal Studios Orlando. One of my gifts was a DVD of The Mummy (1999), a movie I still revisit whenever I want to relive those memories.

When I saw this series at my local comic shop (shout-out Spandex City in Charlotte, NC!), it was a no-brainer. I've absolutely loved reading it — getting Mummy content in comic book form has been such a treat, especially with such a talented team doing justice to this Universal icon. I can't wait to see whether Imhotep and Ankh-es-en-amun can truly reunite — and what's in store for Helen in the next issue!

This series has even inspired me to finally check out the original 1932 film - I'm excited to experience the version that started it all.

Jordan

Wow! Thank you, Jordan! Hey, I try to print every letter I get, good and bad (though for Universal Monsters they are almost always good) but I appreciate the kind words nonetheless! I hope you enjoyed the conclusion to the series – I think that last issue of THE MUMMY is one of the strongest last issues we've seen. Let us know what you think of the comic AND the movie! They're complementary experiences, for sure.

Sir(s),

I've really been enjoying all of the Universal Monsters extension mini-series thus far. The Mummy may be my favorite. I'm writing to request a take on Larry Talbot, The Wolfman. His character was always the most tragic in the Universal horror canon to me and I would love to see a version of his story in comic book form.

Thanks for your consideration, looking forward to The Invisible Man!

Kind regards,
Michael Stradford

Thank you, Michael! We definitely have plans to take on the hairiest of Universal Monsters...he's one of my favorites, too, and I hope you like what we've got cooking up! But for now, I hope you enjoy THE INVISIBLE MAN!

Dear Monsters

I got to say "The Mummy" series ended as strongly as it could. The conflict between Imhotep and Helen was probably one of the best parts of the last issue as was the gruesome depiction of Imhotep's mummy form, which shows the true monster inside him.

Anyway I ended up getting all the interconnecting covers, and I must say they're the best of those kinds of covers we've gotten.

Can't wait for "The Invisible Man" next month. Thank you.

Signed
Josh Thomas. :)

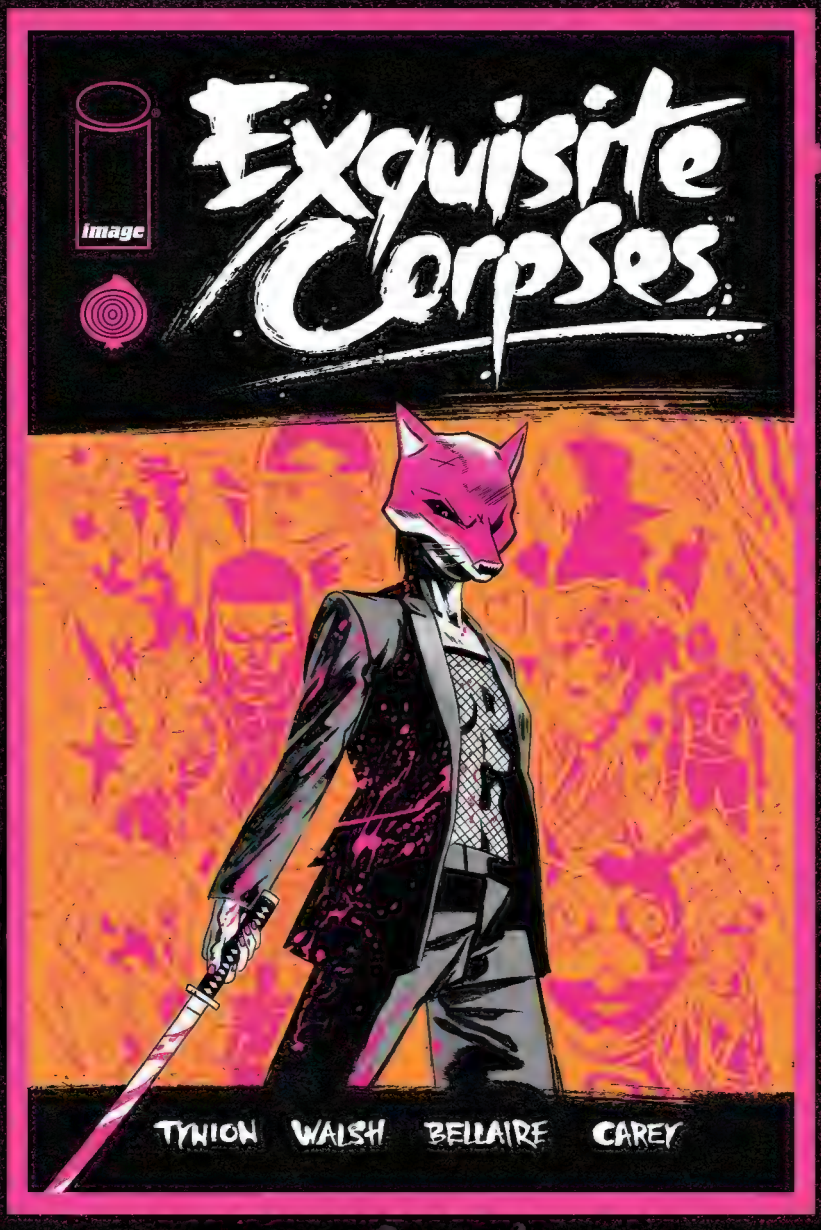
Lovely note, Josh! And hey, look at those Guillem March covers! They turned out so well! Definitely check out his other work, especially his Image series KARMEN. And I'm glad you liked THE MUMMY! We're all really proud of how it turned out.

That's it for today! Oh, before I go, I have a very important announcement to make! My wife and I are expecting our 2nd child this fall, which means I'll be taking some time off for paternity leave...but FEAR NOT! I am leaving the Universal Monsters line in the extremely capable hands of Senior Editor Diegs Lopez. She's a massive Universal Monsters fan and I have no doubt she'll take excellent care of these iconic characters...and all of you! So, give her a MONSTER-SIZED welcome to the Universal Monsters family!

Until we see each other again, don't forget to MAKE MINE MONSTERS!

Papa
Los Angeles, CA

THE HORROR EVENT OF THE YEAR IS HERE.



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–Robert Kirkman (The Walking Dead, Invincible)

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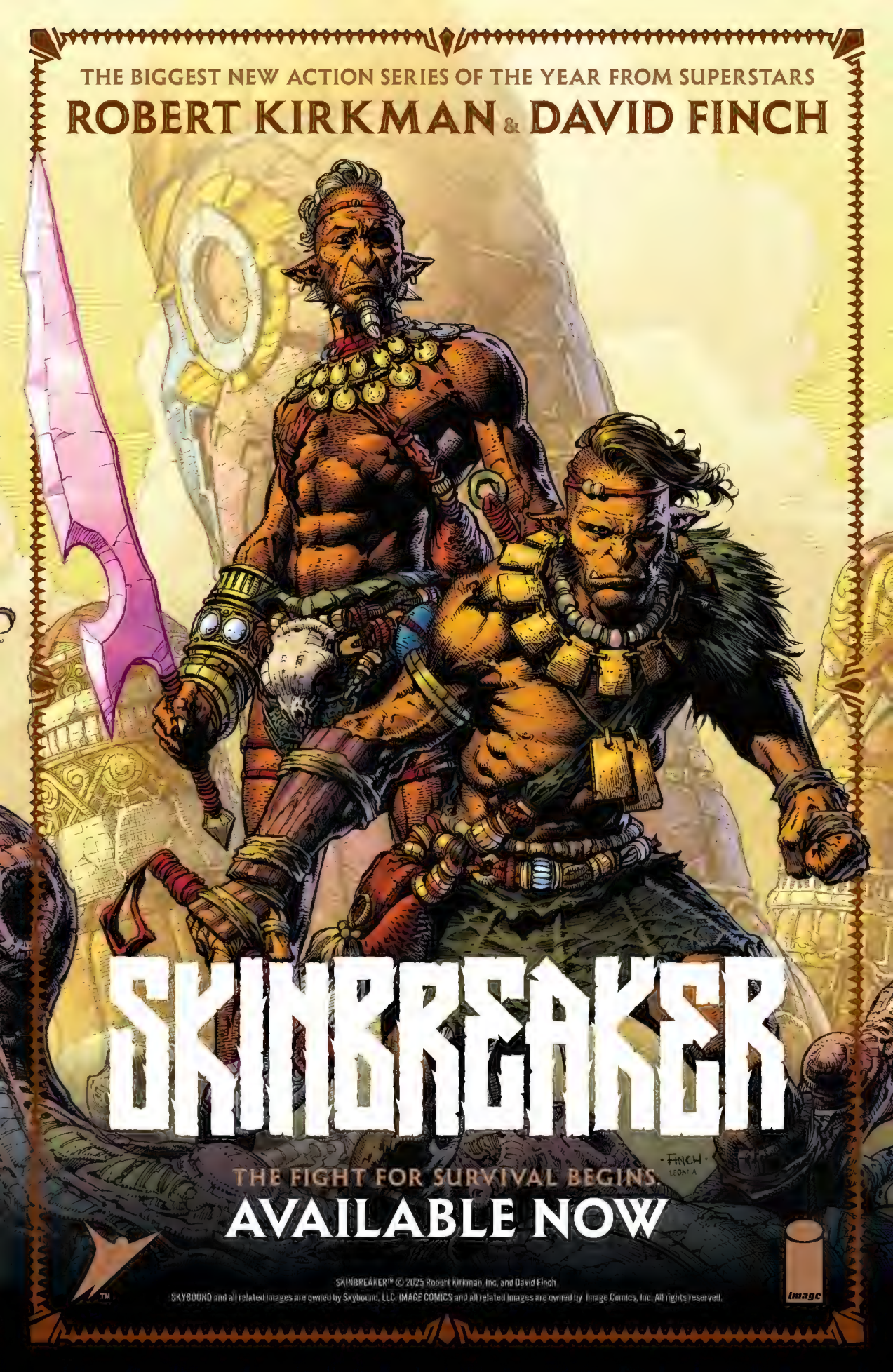
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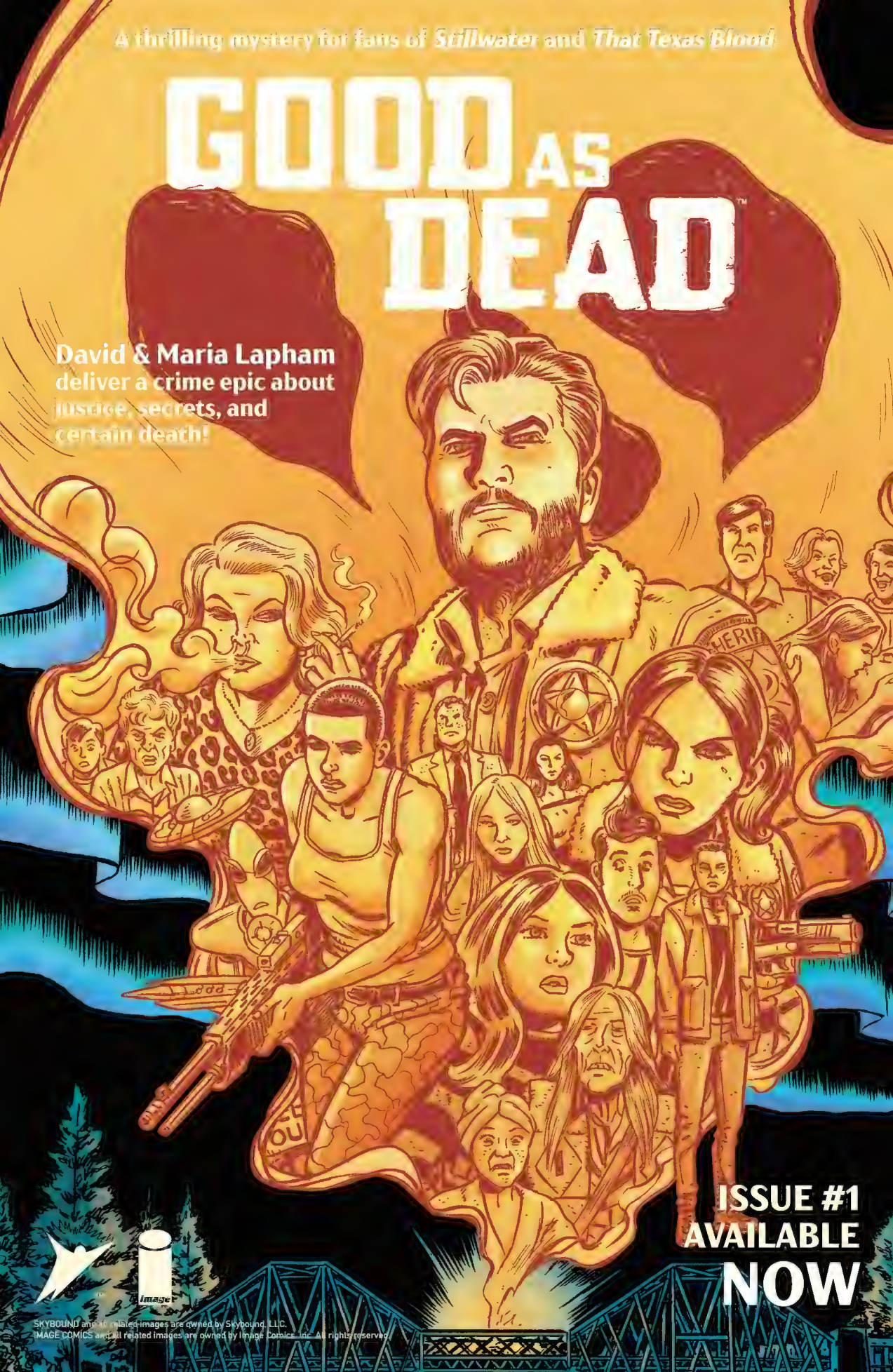
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ROBERT KIRKMAN AND DAN MORA BEGIN A NEW ERA

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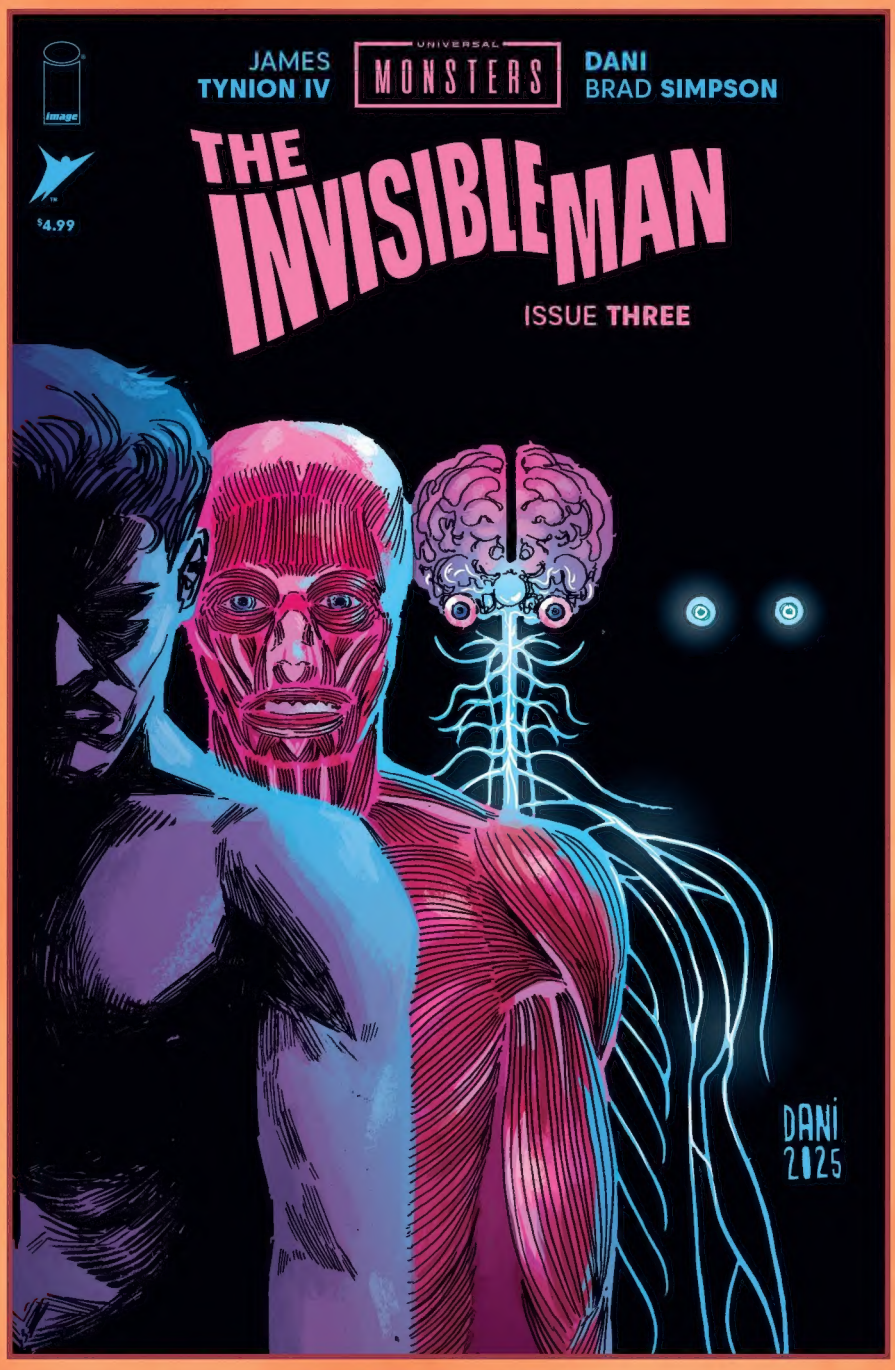
NEXT ISSUE:

THINGS WORSE THAN DEATH!



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ISSUE THREE ON SALE
OCTOBER 22ND 2025

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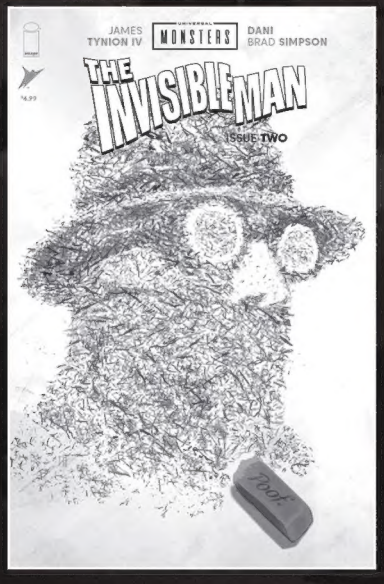

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